

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Applicant wishes to thank Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Frantz Jean and Examiner Aaron Strange for the courtesy and cooperation extended towards the Applicant's undersigned attorney during the telephone interview on October 5, 2004, as well as the further discussion with Examiner Strange on January 25, 2005. The present amendments to the claims and following remarks are being submitted as discussed during the interview of October 5 and the further discussion of January 25.

Claims 6 and 8 were previously canceled. By this Amendment, Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, and 15-24 are also canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Further, the arguments submitted in the Applicant's previous response of June 28, 2004, with regard to Claims 13 and 15, were deemed persuasive as indicated in items #2 and 26 of the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Claims 13 and 15 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, by this Amendment, Claims 12-15 have been amended so as to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, Claims 12 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which they depend, and further to include the features of Claims 13 and

15 respectively. Claims 13 and 15 have also been amended to depend from Claims 12 and 14, respectively.

During the telephone discussion of January 25, 2005, Examiner Strange indicated that the amendments described above should place the application in condition for allowance, subject to the results of a further search.

The Applicant further submits that, in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, and 15-24, as well as the amendments described above, the outstanding rejections over the cited references are rendered moot. These rejections include:

- The rejection of Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham, et al. in view of RFC 2391;
- The rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham, et al. in view of RFC 2391 and in further view of Dickens; and
- The rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham, et al. in view of RFC 2391 and in further view of Tanenbaum.


The Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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